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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-20 April 1987

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-second session of the Commission/ thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 23-27 April 1987

INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA: TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. Organs dealing with overall development issues at the ministerial level

(a) Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning supported by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TPCOW)

1. The Economic Commission for Africa, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Africa as the Commission deems appropriate, and disseminate the results of such investigations and studies;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform, within the available resources of its secretariat, such advisory services as the countries and territories of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by other bodies of the United Nations or by the specialized agencies;

(e) Assist the Council at its request in discharging its function within the region in connexion with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) Assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region;

(g) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationships of economic and social factors.

2. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matter within its competence directly to the Governments of the members or associate members concerned, to Governments admitted in a consultative capacity, and to the specialized agencies. The Commission shall submit for prior consideration by the Economic and Social Council any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

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* These terms were adopted by resolution 671 A(XXV) of the Economic and Social Council of 29 April 1958. They were amended by resolution 974 D.I (XXXVI) of 5 July 1963, resolution 1343 (XLV) of 13 July 1968 and resolution 1978/68 of 4 August 1978.

3. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

4. The geographical scope of the Commission's work shall be the whole continent of Africa, Madagascar and other African islands.

5. Membership of the Commission shall be open to:

Algeria a/	Egypt	Mali c/	South Africa o/
Angola b/	Equatorial Guinea g/	Mauritania m/	Sudan
Benin c/	Ethiopia	Mauritius c/	Swaziland g/
Botswana d/	Gabon c/	Morocco	Togo c/
Burkina Faso c/	Gambia h/	Mozambique e/	Tunisia
Burundi a/	Ghana	Niger c/	Uganda a/
Cameroon c/	Guinea i/	Nigeria c/	United Republic of Tanzania p/
Cape Verde e/	Guinea-Bissau j/	Rwanda a/	Zaire c/
Central African Republic n/	Kenya k/	Sao Tome and Principe e/	Zambia l/
Chad c/	Lesotho d/	Senegal c/	Zimbabwe n/
Comoros e/	Liberia	Seychelles l/	
Congo c/	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sierra Leone m/	
Cote d'Ivoire c/	Madagascar c/	Somalia c/	
Djibouti f/	Malawi l/		

and to any other State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations.

6. The Non-Self-Governing Territories situated within the geographical area defined in paragraph 4 above shall be associate members of the Commission;

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a/ Member of the United Nations since 1962.

b/ Idem, since 1976.

c/ Idem, since 1960.

d/ Idem, since 1966.

e/ Idem, since 1975.

f/ Idem, since 1977.

g/ Idem, since 1968.

h/ Idem, since 1965.

i/ Idem, since 1958.

j/ Idem, since 1974.

k/ Idem, since 1963.

l/ Idem, since 1964.

m/ Idem, since 1961.

n/ Idem, since 1980.

o/ The Council decided, by resolution 974 D IV (XXXVI) of 30 July 1963, that the Republic of South Africa should not take part in the work of the Commission until the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, should find that conditions for constructive co-operation had been restored by a change in its racial policy.

p/ Formed on 26 April 1964 by the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which became Members of the United NATIONS IN 1961 AND 1963/ RESPECTIVELY.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as commission or as committee of the whole.

8. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee or any other subordinate body which may be set up by the Commission, and to hold office in such bodies.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate, in a consultative capacity, in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.

10. The Commission shall invite any national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity to send observers to participate in its consideration of any matter of interest to that movement. Such observers shall have the right to submit proposals which may be voted upon at the request of any member of the Commission. The Commission shall defray all travel and other related expenses of representatives of the national liberation movements invited to attend such proceedings.

11. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies to attend its meetings and to participate, without vote, in its deliberations with respect to items on its agenda relating to matters within the scope of their activities; and it may invite observers from such other intergovernmental organizations as it may consider desriable, in accordance with the practices of the Economic and Social Council.

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison shall be maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies, with special attention to the avoidance of a duplication of effort. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may establish such liaison as it deems appropriate with inter-governmental organizations in Africa operating in the same field.

14. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose.

15. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its chairman and other officers.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the Executive Secretary of the Commission. The staff of the Commission shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council once a year a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies. For those years in which the Commission does not hold a session, the Executive Secretary shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report of its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, after approval by the Chairman of the session in question and circulation to Governments of member States for their comments and any necessary modifications.

19. The headquarters of the Commission and its secretariat shall be located in Africa. The site of the headquarters shall be decided by the Economic and Social Council in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.** The Commission may in due course also establish such subregional officies as it may find necessary.

20. The first session of the Commission shall be called by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as soon as practicable, but not later than the end of 1958. The Commission shall at each session decide upon the locality of the meeting of its next session, due consideration being given to the principle that the Commission should meet at its headquarters or in the different countries of Africa.

21. The Economic and Social Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Main General Economic and Social Development centre with in the United Nations system in the African region and Executing Agency of operational projects

Since 1977, those terms of reference as well as those of the other regional commissions have been reinforced as follows by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 32/197, annex, section IV:

1. The regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions, having due regard to the responsibilities of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in specific sectoral fields and the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in respect of technical co-operation activities

2. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions, they should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level. They may convene periodic meetings, as necessary, for the purpose of improving the co-ordination of the relevant economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions.

3. The regional commissions should provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the competent United Nations organs and should participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by these organs. They should be consulted on the definition of the objectives to be included in the United Nations medium-term plan covering fields of interest to them, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions.

** At its 1018th meeting on 29 April 1958, the Council decided to chose by ballot among the five sites proposed as the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa. Addis Ababa was chosen as the headquarters of the Commission.

4. Subject to such guidance as may be provided by the Governments concerned and without prejudice to membership of regional bodies concerned, the organization of the United Nations system should take early steps to achieve a common definition of regions and subregions and the identical location of regional and subregional offices.

5. Relations between regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system should be strengthened. Close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme should be established and appropriate arrangements be made to enable the regional commissions to participate actively in operational activities carried out through the United Nations system, including the preparation of intercountry programmes, as may be required, in their respective regions. Without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region, and taking into account the plans and priorities of the Governments concerned, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should take measures to enable them to function expeditiously as executing agencies for inter-sectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects and in areas which do not fall within the purview of the sectoral responsibilities of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, other subregional, regional and interregional projects.

6. The regional commissions concerned should assist developing countries at the request of the Governments concerned in identifying projects and preparing programmes for the promotion of co-operation among those countries. Taking fully into account the relevant global policy decisions of the competent United Nations organs, the regional commissions concerned should intensify their efforts, with the assistance of the competent organizations of the United Nations system and at the request of the Governments concerned, to strengthen and enlarge economic co-operation among the developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

7. As a means of promoting more effective interregional co-operation, the regional commissions should strengthen and, as appropriate, expand existing arrangements for the continuous exchange between them of information and experience. Such arrangements may include the holding of periodic intersecretariat meetings, utilizing existing machinery as far as possible for that purpose.

8. In order to enable them effectively to discharge the responsibilities indicated in the preceding paragraphs, the necessary authority should be delegated to the regional commissions and, to the same end, adequate budgetary and financial provisions should be made for their activities.

9. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions and bearing in mind the objectives set forth above, the regional commissions should rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery.

In General Assembly resolution 33/202 paragraph 3 of section V, the General Assembly decided that the regional commissions shall have the status of executing agencies, in their own right, in respect of the categories of projects described in and in conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 32/197 and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in this regard.

(b) Conference of Ministers of the Least Developed African Countries and its technical Committee of Experts (Res.397(XV) operative paragraphs 1, 5 and 6)[2]

The Conference of Ministers

1. Endorses the report of the Conference on the Problems and Prospects of the African Least Developed Countries held from 17 to 22 March 1980 1/ and the consolidated statement adopted by the Conference on strategies, priorities and policies for the African least developed countries;

1/ E/CN.14/766

5. Decides to institute a Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries as a subsidiary organ of the Commission which should hold its meetings annually immediately before the meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission;

6. Decides further that the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries will, inter alia, ensure the co-ordination of efforts, establish priorities, monitor and evaluate progress under the Comprehensive New Programme of Action, undertake periodic analyses and evaluation of progress in the least developed African countries with a view in particular to identifying difficulties encountered in programme implementation and to making recommendations on ways and means of overcoming these difficulties as well as ensuring the effective monitoring, review and evaluation of regional and international activities in favour of the least developed countries;

(c) Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPCs) and their Committee of Experts (Res.311(XIII)

The Conference of Ministers

1. Decides to set up a number of Multinational Programming Operational Centres to replace the United Nations Multinational Interdisciplinary Development Advisory Teams;

2. Further decides:

(a) That beginning from 1977, the chairman of the Councils of Ministers and Committees of Officials of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres should meet annually, at meetings to be convened by the Executive Secretary;

(b) That the chairman of the supervisory bodies of the Centres should participate ex officio in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Commission; 1/

B. Organs dealing with sectoral issues and their committees of officials

(a) Sectoral Conference of Ministers wholly serviced by the secretariat of the Commission:

(i) Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning and its Committee of officials (Res.291(XIII)

In its resolution 291(XIII) the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning, the Commission, inter alia, recommended that the international community, and in particular the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation and the relevant United Nations bodies, should proclaim a transport and communications decade in Africa during the years, 1978-1988 in order to:

(a) Give active support to the global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa and to the application of that strategy for the purpose of solving the problems of the continent in this field, both problems of liaison, harmonization, co-ordination, integration, modernization and development and technical problems such as the use of local resources and techniques, the linking and standardization of networks and the design and adaptation of technology;

(b) Mobilize the technical and financial resources required for this purpose.

In 1979, African Ministers responsible for the development of transport and communications, including telecommunications met in Addis Ababa at the headquarters of the Commission to adopt the global strategy and plan of action within the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988. In paragraph 113 of the report 2/ of the meeting, the Ministers confirmed that it is essential for the African Governments to be able regularly to examine, update and approve the programme and subsequently the projects selected, the choice of executing agencies and the means for mobilizing resources for the

1/ The Executive Committee was abolished in 1979 (see ECA resolution 330(XIV)

2/ E/CN.14/726; E/CN.14/Trans/147

implementation of the projects. They will also need to monitor, and evaluate these operations. At the regional level, a conference of African Ministers responsible for transport and communications matters should be instituted to follow up implementation of the Decade Programme. This conference should be held every two years, and be preceded by a preparatory meeting of officials of the Governments in the fields of transport and communications.

(ii) Conference of African Ministers responsible for human resources development, planning and utilization and its technical committee of officials (Res. 389(XV))

1. The Conference of Ministers responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization (hereinafter referred to as «the Conference») is the Conference of Ministers referred to in resolution 389(XV) adopted by the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers (hereinafter referred to as «the Commission») held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9-12 April 1980.

2. The Conference shall consist of Ministers responsible for planning, development and utilization of human resources and related programmes in each member State.

3. It shall be the function of the Conference to assist the member States to develop and to harmonize their policies and programme co-ordination for consistency and coherent operation to the various system by which;

(a) strategies for ensuring the capability of human resources as a productive agent and determinant of national wealth and personal welfare are planned and programmed;

(b) knowledge, skills and motivational properties of human resources for ensuring its usability and involvement in socio-economic development are created;

(c) human resources quality enhancement factors (physical and mental health, food and nutrition, sports and cultural practices, basic needs fulfilment, housing, etc.) are promoted and nurtured;

(d) distributive allocation and productivity are planned and placement of human resources for productive use and creation of productivity are effected.

4. The Conference shall make proposals for the review and realignment of various systems, programmes, policies, objectives and strategies towards a common target of desired high quality human resources individually and collectively required for the productive use and determinant of personal welfare, and for the promotion of regional productivity by the member States.

5. In carrying out the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 of these terms of reference, the Conference shall in particular:

(a) periodically review the development, status, effectiveness and trend in manpower planning, development and utilization, identifying constraints and problems affecting the development of human resources;

(b) call for and receive programmes of agencies involved in the planning, the development and productive use of the region's human resources for harmonization and alignment with the priorities set by the Conference;

(c) shall, on the basis of projects harmonized and aligned as in sub-paragraph (b) above, mobilize financial and other resources from the United Nations Development Programme as well as other sources and thereafter determine the executing agency in addition to ECA;

(d) advise the Commission on policy issues and requirements that will ensure a co-ordinated thrust to the development of the entire spectrum of human resources;

(e) review the various broad programme strategies and content in relation to human resources development and management programmes, and recommend to ECA for appropriate action;

(f) assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies and national mechineries as a basis for practical action in promoting sound manpower planning, development and utilization;

(g) ensure that human resources planning, development and utilization policies and programmes adopted by the member States are adequately co-ordinated, harmonized and made consistent with the spirit and objectives of intra-African co-operation for developemnt;

(h) initiate within the Terms of Reference of the Commission and its resources, advisory services on manpower planning, development and utilization as requested by member States.

6. It shall further be the function of the Conference to:

(a) determine human resources programme strategy and priorities at the regional level in relation to overall development goals, the manpower requirements of various sectors in African economies and the need for worthwhile employment and full utilization of Africa's human resources endowment. In order to achieve these purposes the Conference shall provide the member States with policy and programme guidelines for adaptation to national needs;

(b) take such measures as will foster effective co-ordination and harmonization of multinational and regional policies and programmes in the field of human resources in Africa involving the co-operation of African and non-African intergovernmental organizations;

(c) consider pertinent global issues and problems and related international actions having direct or indirect effects on Africa's human resources situation with a view to formulating an appropriate African position and recommending measures that will safeguard the African interest;

(d) make recommendations on any other matter pertaining to human resources directly to the Government of the member States through resolutions adopted by the Conference.

7. Recommendations of the Conference of the member States shall be submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers for endorsement.

8. The geographical scope of the work of the Conference shall be all independent African States and the adjacent islands which are members of the Commission and of the Organization of African Unity and any other State in the region which may hereafter become a member of the United Nations.

9. The Conference and its Technical Preparatory Committee shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Organizations, multilateral and bilateral organizations as it may deem necessary to attend its meetings and to participate, without a vote, in its deliberations.

10. The Conference shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison shall be maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies and bodies with special attention to the avoidance of duplication of effort. The Conference shall establish appropriate co-operation and co-ordination of activities with other United Nations specialized agencies and bodies in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Commission and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

11. The Conference shall submit to the Commission once a year, a full report on its activities and plans including those of any specialized agencies.

12. The Conference shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of electing its chairman and other officers.

13. The Conference shall, from time to time, make special reviews of its work.

14. The Conference shall have a Ministerial Follow-up Committee comprising the Officers of the Conference and five other Ministers representing the five subregions of Africa, elected from among member States on a rotational basis to serve for three years. The Follow-up Committee may meet every year but not less than once between regular sessions of the Conference. It shall operate under the same terms of reference as the Conference of Ministers on whose behalf it will act, and shall, in particular, follow up on the implementation of decisions of the Conference.

15. The Conference shall require the ECA secretariat, within the terms of its mandate, to arrange inter-agency consultative meetings involving the participation of the Organization of African Unity, agencies of the United Nations system and other collaborating organizations that have technical co-operation programmes in Africa in the field of human resources development and utilization. Such meetings shall endeavour to foster policy and programme co-ordination and harmonization as well as promote collaboration in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of Ministers.

(iii) Conference of African Ministers of Finance and its technical committee of experts (Res.541(XX) paragraph 1 and 7)

The Conference of Ministers

1. Decides to establish a conference of African Ministers of Finance assisted by the secretariats of ECA and OAU and the Governors of Central Banks as the appropriate machinery to meet at least once every two years, to deal, inter alia, with the following functions:

(a) Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the international monetary and financial situation on the African economies and proposing appropriate remedial action;

(b) Regularly assessing the structure and magnitude of Africa's external debts, including the debt servicing obligations of African countries with a view to proposing effective measures to alleviate such debts;

(c) Reviewing intra-African monetary and financial co-operation and suggesting ways by which resource flows to Africa can be enhanced, including the proposed establishment of an African Monetary Fund;

(d) Promoting the exchange of information and the sharing of national experiences in dealing with monetary and financial matters;

(e) Devising strategies for strengthening Africa's position in international negotiations on money and financial issues;

7. Further decides that the secretariat of ECA shall convene the meetings of the Conference;

(iv) The African Ministers responsible for Mineral development, exploration and utilization supported by their Technical Committee of Experts who also meet to discuss issues relating to minerals

The terms of reference of this Conference[1/] are to take all necessary actions with a view to ensuring the achievements of the main development objectives of the strategy for development of mineral resources during the 1980s, namely:

(i) Improved knowledge of African mineral resources through possession of an adequate inventory of existing and potential resources, better forecasting of consumption patterns and research towards rational use of known reserves. Particular attention should be paid to those mineral raw materials with strategic importance for building up the basic industries making up intermediate products such as: iron and steel, aluminium, base metals, petrochemical products and fertiliser, cement, etc. In the economic evaluation of the resources account should be taken of the structural changes which have occurred in the world due to the effect of the energy crises, the new technologies as well as the increased needs for local consumption of some raw materials.

(ii) Creation, at the national and regional levels, of proper scientific, technical and industrial environment necessary for the development and expansion of the mineral extractive industries. To this end, the first effort should be directed towards the strengthening of the capabilities of the national geographical surveys and mining departments. In promoting the new methods and techniques of research the national capabilities have to be complemented by the multi-national African centres for development of mineral resources.

(iii) Correlation of national programmes of geological research and mineral surveys at the subregional and regional levels in view of increased efficiency and establishment of joint operational activities. Of particular importance will be co-operation among the member States for exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed.

(iv) Training in all aspects of mineral resources development of high level specialized personnel as well as of medium level technicians from member States in order to alleviate the shortage of qualified manpower and to reduce the dependence on overseas expertise and specialized services.

1/ see Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (A/S-11/Annex I)

(v) Development of a system of transfer of know-how, and exchange of scientific, technical and economic data in geology, mining activities and mineral economics among member States as well as with countries from other developing regions.

(b) Sectoral Conferences of Ministers serviced jointly with collaborative organization

(i) Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs and its technical committee of officials (with the Organization of African Unity (OAU))[1/]

The Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs

1. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in collaboration with the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system to convene every two years a Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs to articulate policies for social development undertakings in the region, to promote the training of manpower development for social welfare in the region, and particularly to review the progress of and make proposals in respect of the activities of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to present to the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs periodic reports on the progress and activities of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development.

(ii) Conference of African Ministers of Industry and its technical committee of officials (with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO and OAU)[2/]

Addis Ababa Declaration on Industrial Development in Africa in the 1970s[3/]

We, Ministers of Industry, meeting in the city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 7 May 1971,

Having assessed, reviewed and critically examined the policies pursued and performance in the 1960s,

Decide to pursue deliberate and coherent national policies and to concert our actions to achieve these objectives through the maximum possible domestic processing of our natural resources; fostering exports of manufactures; expanding non-agricultural activities in the rural areas and strengthening the link between agriculture and industry; promoting the domestic entrepreneurial base in the private and public sectors; and developing technical capabilities;

1/ The terms have been extracted from the following documents (Doc.E/CN.14/672; E/CN.14/ECO/115; E/CN.14/AMSW/11/Rpt.)

2/ The OAU and ECA co-sponsor the Conference of Ministers of Industry. Accordingly, invitation letters to Governments are jointly prepared.

3/ Document E/CN.14/525; E/CN.14/INR/194
OAU/CM.1/W/9

Request the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU and the Executive Secretary of the ECA to convene similar conferences every two years during the Decade in order to review progress towards achieving targets set for the Second Development Decade; to evaluate other aspects of performance; and to recommend policies and action for sustaining industrial growth.

(iii) Conference of African Ministers of Trade and its technical committee of officials (with OAU and active support of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (Doc.CM/757(XXVII).

The Conference of African Ministers of Trade

«The Conference of African Ministers of Trade, meeting in its fourth session, held in Algiers, Algeria, November 24 to 28,1975,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity;

Noting that the various meetings of African Trade Ministers have achieved considerabl progress towards co-ordinating the action of African States in the field of trade;

Aware of the need to elaborate a global African trade strategy at the continental level;

Taking account of the weakness of intra-African trade due, inter alia, to the vertical structure of trade relations between African States and the developed countries;

Noting the need to reduce and eliminate all obstacles to inter-African trade;

Bearing in mind the existence of regional sub-groups in Africa, particularly in the field of trade relations;

Taking note of the various resolutions of African conferences and organizations as well as those international organizations relating to co-ordination in the field of intra-African trade relations, particularly the 10th OAU Summit Conference;

Aware of the pressing need for co-ordinated action by African countries in international negotiations with a view to adopting a common position;

Recalling the pertinent resolutions and decisions which recommend the strengthening of the OAU through adequate human and physical means;

Decides to:

1. RECOMMEND that the Conference of African Trade Ministers be established as a Specialized Commission of the OAU in accordance with the provisions of Article XX of the Charter of the OAU;

2. CONVENE, in principle annually, a Conference of Trade Ministers of member Countries of the Organization of African Unity; and entrusts the OAU General-Secretariat, in co-ordination with the ECA and ADB, with the task of making preparations for this conference;

3. INVITE the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to make the appropriate administrative, budgetary and statutory arrangements; and to submit this recommendation to the February 1976 session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU.»

C. Technical subsidiary bodies

a) Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (Resolution 368(XIV) of 27 March 1979)

The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, and Demographers, acting within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic Commission for Africa, shall, provided that the Conference takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(i) Serve as a forum for examining progress and problems in the fields of African planning, statistics and population and take action to ensure their development in the light of the general principles of self-reliance and technical co-operation among countries of the region;

(ii) Establish arrangements for the improvement of all aspects of methodology and practice in the three fields under African conditions;

(iii) Co-ordinate the training programmes for and promote the training of the necessary African personnel in planning, statistics and demography[1/];

(iv) Collaborate with the secretariat in evaluating economic, social and demographic conditions in the region to assist in formulating appropriate strategies and monitoring their implementation;

(v) Conduct its operation in collaboration with other relevant bodies and international agencies.

The members of the Conference shall be the government officials in charge of the national planning, statistical and population agencies of the member States of the Economic Commission for Africa, or their representatives. Representation of all other Government and bodies shall follow the same rules as for sessions of the Economic Commission for Africa.

The Conference shall meet once every two years, with its first session being held in 1980, and shall report on its sessions to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Work at sessions of the Conference shall be organized in plenary meetings and in committees. A joint report on plenary and committee meetings shall be agreed at a final plenary meeting of each session of the Conference.

1/ This includes the functions requested in the statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) which shall be exercised by the Committee of Planners established in paragraph 4 of the Terms of Reference.

At the beginning of each session, the Conference shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

Member States and agencies shall bear the cost of their attendance at the sessions of the Conference.

Except as provided for herein, the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, where relevant, apply to the session of the Conference.

b) African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the integration of Women in development (Res. 365(XIV) of 27 March 1979)

The Conference of Ministers

Takes note of the report and recommandations of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the desirability of amending the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

Decides to amend the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee:

1. By replacing the provisions relating to the composition of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee and its officers with the following:

a. «The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

(i) Three members designated by each subregional committee (with the right to vote);

(ii) The Executive Secretary of ECA (without the right to vote), and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (without the right to vote);

(iii) (a) The Pan-African Women's Organization;

(b) United Nations Agencies;

(c) The representatives of donor agencies;

the above being invited as observers if a particular subject under consideration is of interest to them;

b. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall elect a bureau composed of:

- a chairman

- a first and a second vice-chairman, and

- two rapporteurs.

c. The terms of office of the Bureau will be two years. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee will meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau».

2. The African Training and Research Centre for Women will act as secretariat of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

3. The rules of procedure of the Committee shall be the same as those of the Economic Commission for Africa.

4. By replacing the terms of reference of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee with the following:

«(i) to harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes approved within the the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

(ii) To evaluate and implement work programmes, bearing in mind the availability of resources and to oversee the implementation of work programmes;

(iii) To organize the exchange of information and experiences;

(iv) To participate in the activities and meetings of the United Nations and other relevant organizations;

(v) To mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels;

(vi) To review and evaluate activities carried out in the region in the framework of programmes for the advancement of women;

(vii) To convene every three years, the African Regional Conference on women and development;

(viii) To report to the deliberative organs of the Economic Commission for Africa on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregional (Committee of officials and Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres)».

c) Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology Development (Res.248(XI))

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling its resolution 248(XI) of 22 February 1973, by which it established the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development;

Recalling also its resolution 285(XV) of 12 April 1980 by which it gave new terms of reference to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development and mandated the Committee to establish working groups,

Recognizing that since the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action the Committee has provided a useful regional machinery for reviewing the issues of science and technology in relation to the priority sectors stipulated in the Plan and to the emerging socio-economic problems;

Recognizing also that the effectiveness of the Intergovernmental Committee and its working groups required more effective contribution and participation of the member States in their activities

1. Urges all member States to ensure that their delegations to meetings and activities of the Committee and its working groups have the necessary complement of senior officials to deal effectively with the issues placed before these bodies;

2. Decides that the Committee's terms of reference will be as follows:

(i) To promote the application of science and technology, to the development of priority sectors in the African region;

(ii) To assist the Economic Commission for Africa in the definition and p periodic review of strategies and programmes to further the development of science and technology;

(iii) To examine the critical problems concerning such development and recommend actions for dealing with them at the national, subregional and regional level

(iv) To advise the Commission and its Executive Secretary on ways and means of mobilizing resources of all kinds for the implementation of strategies, programmes and projects for the development of science and technology within the region;

(v) To serve as a forum for the exchange of information and experience among member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and organizations and agencies of the United Nations in the implementation of strategies, programmes and projects for the development of science and technology within the region,

(vi) To give special consideration in its activities to the needs of the least developed member States.

d) Intergovernmental Regional Committee for Human Settlements and Environment (Resolution 402(XVI) of 10 April 1981) operative par.3)

(i) Formulation of policies, priorities and strategies for regional, subregional and transnational environmental management in the African region;

(ii) Promotion of the exchange of information and experience on national environmental policies, legislation, programme and problems;

(iii) Review of the work programme and priorities on the environment in the Commission, appraisal of progress made in their implementation and assistance in mobilizing financial and other resources for programming in priority environmental areas in the African region;

(iv) Assistance in assembling information on national environmental problems for preparation of the state of the environment report on the African region;

(v) Promotion of programmes on environmental education for the public through the mass media and for the training of nationals as specialists to monitor, assess, manage and carry out research on environmental problems; and

(vi) Promotion of close inter-organizational co-operation on environmental matters between ECA and UNEP and all other United Nations intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working within and outside the African region.

e) Technical Committee on Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) (Res. 498(XIX) of 26 May 1984)

The Conference of Ministers

1. Decides to establish a regional technical committee for PADIS with the following terms of reference:

(a) to establish the overall policy of PADIS, inter alia by laying down policy, technical and financial guidelines;

(b) to advise the Executive Secretary on the formulation and implementation of the work programme of the project in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines;

(c) to oversee the execution of the project at all levels of the system;

(d) to take any other action that will enhance the effectiveness and economic viability of the project;

(e) to meet as often as may be required but not less than once a year, provided that during the transitional phase the committee shall meet at least twice a year;

(f) to co-opt specialists drawn from the relevant disciplines as necessary;

(g) to report annually on its activities to the Conference of Ministers through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;

2. Decides further that the committee shall be composed as follows:

(a) the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, serving as chairman ex officio;

(b) five high-level experts who shall be elected to represent their respective subregions and who are expert in telecommunications, documentation, library science, information or computer science, to serve in their personal capacity for a period of four years;

(c) a representative of OAU;

(d) a represenative of UNDP;

(e) members co-opted in accordance with paragraph 1(f) above, provided that such members shall not number more than three at any time.